

## CLAIMS

[1] A stapler comprising:

a striking mechanism portion;

5 a movable clincher for folding to bend staple legs penetrated through a bundle of sheets to be bound of a staple struck out from the striking mechanism portion along a back face of the bundle of sheets to be bound by being pivoted from a standby position to an operating position; and

a cutter unit,

10 wherein the cutter unit comprises a fixed cutter and a movable cutter,

the cutter unit is arranged slidably between a position advanced into an operation region of the movable clincher opposed to a staple strike out portion of the striking mechanism and  
15 a position escaped from the operation region of the movable clincher,

when the movable clincher is pivoted to the standby position, the cutter unit advances to the operation region of the movable clincher to cut the staple leg penetrated through the sheet  
20 to be bound, and

after escaping the cutter unit from the operation region of the movable clincher, the movable clincher is pivoted to the operating position to bend the staple leg cut by a predetermined length along the sheet to be bound.

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[2] The stapler according to Claim 1, when the cutter unit advances to the operation region of the movable clincher, the

fixed cutter is positioned between the staple legs penetrated through the sheet to be bound and the movable cutter is operated from an outer side to an inner side of the staple legs relative to the fixed cutter to cut the staple legs.

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[3] The stapler according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
an opening formed at the cutter unit; and  
a chute arranged on a side of a lower side of the cutter unit,

10        wherein a cutting chip of the staple legs is discharged to a side of a lower face of the cutter unit by way of the opening at a position at which the cutter unit is escaped from the operation region of the movable clincher and is guided into a chip containing portion by way of the chute.

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[4] The stapler according to Claim 3, wherein the chute comprises:

20        a first end portion arranged on the side of the lower face of the cutter unit and comprising a pivotably supporting portion for pivotably supporting the chute; and

      a second end portion arranged in the chip containing portion,

25        wherein the pivotably supporting portion is moved to an upper side such that an inclination angle of the chute is increased by operating to pivot the clincher.